

ADVENTURE IN EARLY IDAHO

COTTONWOOD

THE HUB OF THE CAMAS PRAIRIE

... IN ...

IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO,

... AND THE ...

Nez Perceez Reservation.

HOMES FOR IMMIGRANTS,
GOLD FOR MINERS AND PROSPECTORS,
AND GRAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAPITALISTS.

For most of his adult life, Samuel E. Dunham (1850-1915)(9)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8) was a commodities trader in Chicago -- not a particularly exciting or dangerous career. However, there was one brief chapter in his life that was different. With a group of Chicago businessmen he invested in land in Idaho, on the Camas Prairie & near the Snake River. The idea behind this investment was that gold could be found on this land, & the Chicagoans were gung-ho about the project. Some even decided to settle out there & take their families. This was in 1894, so Samuel was not a young man at the time -- 44, but he was game for the adventure, & with a few others, the Dunhams set out for the west. Loads of heavy mining equipment went with the travelers, & they also brought a horse with them. People thought they were insane to ship a HORSE to IDAHO, where horses were plentiful, but if they took that horse with them, they could get a much better railroad rate, as settlers, so it wasn't as dumb a move as it appeared to be. Samuel Dunham, his daughters & son-in-law, Bud Ferriss, were all crazy about life in Idaho -- his wife, less so. Once the mining operations began life seemed very exciting. There WAS gold to be had, & fortunes to be made. Enthusiasm mounted. There was, however, also a catch. (to p. 2)

ADVENTURE IN IDAHO (from p. 1) No sooner had the Chicagoans begun to realize their dreams than they learned about it: the land belonged to the Nez Perce Indians, & they couldn't have a speck of the gold that they mined. It must have been a great disappointment, but the group handled it well. They decided to make lemonade with their "lemon", to continue building up the little town of Cottonwood that they had founded, & to start up the Cottonwood Packing Co. For these operations, more capital was needed, & Samuel Dunham was chosen to go back to Chicago to raise it. This he did, all alone, & he was similarly alone, & loaded down with money, on the trip back to Idaho. Transportation was minimal, of course. The Northern Pacific Railroad went most of the way; then the traveler had to go on horseback a long ways to the town of Cottonwood & the camp where the men were awaiting the arrival of the payroll. All went well on the railroad trip; no outlaws approached the train. It was a long, lonesome horseback ride after that, & Dunham was glad when he saw, as night fell, a campfire burning merrily not too far ahead on the trail. He was welcomed by the several men who were sharing that campfire, & he was glad to join them. They were rough looking customers, but that was not unusual in the West of the period, & the men were agreeable companions. They had plenty to eat, & they shared stories & sang songs around the embers of the fire. "Oh, Susannah!" was Dunham's favorite, & he added to the evening's entertainment by doing a soft shoe dance, perhaps to harmonica music. A good time was had by all. TO BE CONTINUED



KAREN HILL had a great idea: checking out the NY TIMES index for obituaries for persons named Dunham, & she sent a list of the 53 Dunham entires she found there. Here is the 1st one we read on microfilm, dated Jan. 25, 1938. Does anyone know how Arthur related to the total family picture?

its being the most detailed obit we've ever seen, & despite serious efforts to identify this man, we've been unable to do so. HELP NEEDED!!!!

JOHN E. DUNHAM DEAD.

WIDELY KNOWN THROUGHOUT
CENTRAL NEW YORK.

A Large Land Owner and Thoroughgoing
Business Man—His Extensive Farming
Enterprises: Death of Mrs. George A.
Bailey of Buffalo.

John E. Dunham, in his 87th year, died at his home, No. 218 West Court street, on Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock.

He was born Jan. 7, 1811, in Windsor, Berkshire county, Mass., about 30 miles north of Pittsfield. About one year later his father moved on to a small farm which he purchased in Columbia county, N. Y., near the Massachusetts line.

Mr. Dunham was of New England descent on his father's side and of Holland Dutch on his mother's side. His father was Samuel Hancock Dunham, a native of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., and whose mother was a descendant of the family which included Gov. John Hancock one of the signers of the declaration of independence. His mother was Lany Hollenbeck, whose father was one of the descendants of the settlers of the Hudson River. His grandfather Hollenbeck owned a number of slaves and was a large farmer and lumberman.

From early childhood Mr. Dunham had a great liking for business activity and when a very young boy one of his pleasant pastimes was to visit at his grandfather's where there was plenty of it. In accordance with a characteristic trait of his to like to see people take innocent recreation, he used to enjoy watching the negroes as they danced, or listening to them as they sang in the room or kitchen set apart for them, and held to the opinion that they were as happy and contented a people as existed. Several of them preferred to remain with the family after they were freed, one old negro living to be over 100 years old, always receiving the best of care and attention.

His early education was limited to the district school near his home. His father being in poor health, the care of the farm, early devolved upon him and from the time he was 15 or 16 years old he had the almost entire management, with his parent's counsel, of his father's affairs, buying the stock for and selling the produce from the farm and thereby assisted in paying off a small mortgage which his father owed for an addition brought to his original farm.

He visited New York city when a boy in company with a merchant who conducted a store in the village near his home and who gave him so good a recommendation that he made arrangements to go to New York, but on his return home his mother, a woman of much resolution of character, and whose wishes and counsel he always respected, opposed so strenuously that he abandoned the idea.

In addition to working upon the farm and attending to his father's business he soon commenced to deal for himself and was at once recognized as a young man of strict reliability. Before he became of age he bought several hundred sheep, to

pay for which he borrowed the money on his individual note of a man to whom he had sold grain for his father and who took his note without hesitancy. He was always a man of punctuality, and his word as good as his note. He was a self-made man and had obtained his property by his own industry and perseverance. He had for many years been a large farm owner and had dealt much in farm and other real estate and investments.

About 10 years ago he moved to Lee, Oneida county, N. Y., having purchased of a Mr. Phillips the farm which included the Mohawk flats about the village of Delta with the brick house opposite Harrington's store, now occupied by William Dennison. He had the frame house on that farm built for a tenant house. After owning this farm about six years he sold it to Geo. T. Dennison, father of the present occupant, and bought the farm about a mile from Delta near Clark's or Hawkins's Corners, now owned by the heirs of David Anken. He subsequently purchased the farms on Turin road now owned by Thomas Smith, John Brown and the heirs of George Smith, moving to the Smith farm for the purpose of being nearer schools, his children attending the Rome schools.

Later he purchased the farms which he still owns at Lee Line and the farm adjoining the Brown farm. At different times he owned other real estate in Lee and Rome. About 1880 he purchased the farm at Ridge Mills formerly owned by Alva Mudge and known as the West farm, which he still owns, and at about the same time he purchased the farms at Fort Bull of the estate of Morgan Brainard and has subsequently added different plots of land to these and to his Lee Line farms.

At the time of his death he was the owner of over 1,700 acres in and about Rome, on which were dairies aggregating about 300 cows. In 1884 he moved to the residence 218 W. Court street which he purchased a year or two previous and has since resided there.

It was one of his delights to see improvements to farm real estate, whether owned by himself or others, and he never owned a farm himself that he did not increase in value and in producing capacity. The farms north of this city which he owned for several years, were at the time he purchased them capable of maintaining but about one fourth the number of cows that were kept on them when he sold them. He never allowed the prospect of temporary profit to induce him to impoverish the soil in any degree. As soon as he purchased a piece of property he commenced improvements in erecting new buildings, moving others to be more conveniently accessible and in improving and reclaiming the unproductive or semi-productive portions, and working the land he probably gave employment to more men than any other man in the same industry in the county.

While he owned and resided on the farm near Delta he had the entire buildings built or remodeled and the whole farm fenced next the road with planned, capped and painted fences.

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ARTHUR DUNHAM, 62, CHICAGO ORGANIST

Organizer of Glee Clubs, Also a
Composer, Dies—Had Served
as Orchestra Conductor

Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—Arthur Dunham, one of Chicago's leading organists, died today in St. Luke's hospital at the age of 62. His home was at 5,808 Harper Avenue.

It was in the First Methodist Temple that Mr. Dunham achieved much of his recent fame as an organist. When the skyscraper church was being built in 1924, Mr. Dunham was engaged to help select the organ, which has four manuals and 6,300 pipes. Mr. Dunham was appointed organist. He also was organist of K. A. M. Temple and had served at Sinai Temple.

For nearly twenty-five years Mr. Dunham conducted the Association of Commerce Glee Club, an amateur singing organization. For eleven years he also conducted the Lyric Glee Club of Milwaukee.

Mr. Dunham was a conductor of the Boston English Opera Company in 1921. In 1917 he organized the Philharmonic Orchestra of Chicago to give popular symphony concerts. In 1922 he directed the Symphony Orchestra of the Tivoli Theatre.

He also was a composer. Among his works are "Marpessa," "Symphony Fantasy," a symphony in D minor; "Suite Moods" and "Silence."

Surviving are his widow, a son, Arthur Jr.; a daughter, Leonora, and a sister, Mrs. T. S. Pemberton.

RIGHT: From a May, 1897 newspaper sent in by Ann Eldred, we have this obit for JOHN E. DUNHAM (1811-1897). Despite

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JOHN E. DUNHAM (from page 3)

Prior to his leaving Columbia county he had built a new house for his father and mother and had built for himself on his own farm one of the best farm dwellings in that county.

From the time he moved into Oneida county he engaged in the dairy interest, but before he came from Columbia county he raised sheep and grain and when he moved from there he had a flock of nearly 500 sheep on his farms.

He had for many years been interested in western investments and had taken great interest in observing the growth of the west, including Chicago, most of which, when he first saw it, was open country, or waste land or marsh. When making one of his trips to visit the western states he and his wife drove through the western part of the state with his own conveyance and purchased a farm of 170 acres in Genesee county, but sold it soon afterward.

When he first went to Illinois he purchased land near the present city of Elgin for \$2 per acre, and although he never made his residence in that state, he always retained some interest there and for over 30 years and up to five years ago had always made it a point to be there June 1, and was as punctual in that respect as in his general mode of business, and those with whom he had become acquainted there remarked that they were reminded of the date by the punctuality of his appearance.

Although he led a very busy life he always kept himself well informed by reading and association, and was a good conversationalist and could find time for, and enjoyed a social chat with his friends when he met them. He had a retentive memory and took an interest in everybody. He was a man of broad observation and could tell much about the appearance of the country before there was any railroad west of Schenectady.

In his early life he had occasion to often go to Albany on business and rode from Albany to Schenectady on the railroad that had but a short time been completed to Schenectady, that then being the western terminus of the road. The impression made on him at that time was that it was very rapid traveling and he took pleasure in making comparison with the speed and general appearance of that train with those of the present time.

He thoroughly enjoyed the beauties of nature and driving about the country. But a few years since he took a long drive from his home down through the eastern part of this state and into Massachusetts to his birthplace and former home, also driving up on the Catskill Mountains and down the Hudson River about Athens to his grandfather's old home. His grandfather's large old brick house (the bricks for which were brought from Holland) is still standing in a good state of preservation and with but little alteration from its arrangement when he was a child.

He believed life was much what a man made it and thought an all wise providence had prepared all things needful for man's use and enjoyment. It made the best use of, and his whole hope and trust was in God.

He chose for his companion in life Miss Martha A. Smith of Chebire, near Pittsfield, Mass., to whom he was married in 1848, and who died in 1892. She was a daughter of Samuel Smith, then of Chebire, but who many years ago purchased and moved on to the farm near Stokes, formerly called the Nisbet farm.

He had four children. One son, John S., died in infancy. He leaves one son, George E., and two daughters, Misses Ada E. and Mary F., who resided with him, and one sister, Mrs. Henry Ellsworth, one year younger than himself, living at Ypsilanti, Mich.

He was a man of strong family ties and thought a great deal of his kin-folk if ever so distant, and had a remarkably contented and happy disposition. He felt that every blessing had been bestowed upon him that he could ask for, often expressing his thankfulness for the same. He had been gradually failing for the past year or more but not very perceptibly until the past winter and for the last two weeks had failed very rapidly, passing away peacefully at last. He had ridden out every day that was pleasant and took a short ride the day before his death.

GROWING PAINS

Cutbacks Necessary?

Growth is a widely accepted measure of success in any endeavor. Growth is something to aim for, something to rejoice in. This newsletter is no exception: we have sought new cousins & have been delighted whenever we found them. We have grown, & we're very

glad of it. But there is a "down side" to this growth which we're just now experiencing. Along with circulation, costs have increased mightily. It is not that the individual stamp has become more expensive (not lately, anyway) nor that each whirr of the copy machine takes a bigger coin. No, the trouble is that the circulation itself has grown, & common sense dictates that we do something about it. What we're going to have to do, however regretfully, is to limit our mailings to those cousins only who provide material that can be used in the newsletters, those who write regularly & share material. Otherwise, the time is fast approaching when an issue is going to sit on the shelf for lack of postage to mail it out -- & what's the point of that?

BOOKS TO WATCH FOR

P. C. Alger, Derry, N.H., reports that she recently found some very interesting books at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA., books that all Dunham researchers should see. They are: 1/ SAMUEL G. DUNHAM & ALICE COLLINS DUNHAM: THEIR DESCENDANTS & ANTECEDENTS, by Alice Dunham (published 1955) 2/ REMINISCENCES OF AUSTIN C. DUNHAM, published by Case, Lockwood & Brainard. (This also ran serially in THE HARTFORD COURANT in 1912 & 1913.) 3/ DIFFENDERFFER, WITH ADDEMDUM DUNHAM & OWEN, by William Henry Owen, published 1940. Paula-Carol notes that only 100 copies of each were published, so they're probably pretty hard to find. Since they are all fairly old, perhaps Higginson Books in Salem, MA could be persuaded to reprint them. Anyway, be on the LOOKOUT!

HERE'S ANOTHER SELECTION of photos from the 1993 Dunham Reunion in West Monroe, NY, presented with thanks to all those who have sent in identifications for the pictures we've published previously.



HARRISON MONROE DUNHAM
1857-1904

Judge of Probate, Wexford Co., Mich. (1888-1896)

THIS PHOTOGRAPH is from Sophie Dunham Moore's JACOB DUNHAM GENEALOGY (1963).

Judge Harrison Monroe Dunham belonged to the 8th generation of Dunhams in America, with ancestry as follows:

Deacon John 1, Rev. Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Jacob 4, Ebenezzer 5, Jacob 6, John J. 7.



Don Carl

P.C. Alger

(Judge of Probate)

P.C. Alger

